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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 181144
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DHESTER:LLC
APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP
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----------078065 182010Z /75
R 181723Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR AG

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MATERIALS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

1. ATTACHED IS PAGE ON ALGERIA FROM 1977 BRIEFING BOOK. REQUEST EMBASSY REVIEW AND TRANSMIT ANY RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO NEA/AFN BY JULY 26 SO THEY MAY BE INCORPORATED IN REVISED TEXT DUE AUGUST 1.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER

ALGERIA

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

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ALGERIAN LAW FORBIDS PRODUCTION, SALE, POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF DRUGS, INCLUDING CANNABIS. IN ADDITION TO THE LEGAL BAN, THERE IS GENERAL MORAL CONDEMNATION OF DRUGS AS BEING INCONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ALGERIAN REVOLUTION. CANNABIS (HASHISH) IS PRODUCED AND

USED BY A SMALL MINORITY, PRIMARILY IN THE RURAL, LESS-

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EVOLVED SECTOR OF THE POPULATION, AND BECAUSE IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ELEMENT, IT DOES NOT APPEAL TO URBAN YOUTH. USE OF HARD DRUGS AND BARBITURATES BY ANY SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION IS MINIMAL.

DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS

ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT DEDICATION TO INSULATING ALGERIA FROM THE EFFECTS OF DRUG TRAFFIC HAS RESULTED IN EFFECTIVE BORDER CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT WHICH HAVE KEPT DOMESTIC DRUG PRODUCTION AND USAGE IN HAND. IN DECEMBER 1974-JANUARY 1975, THERE WAS AN UPSURGE OF ARRESTS OF PERSONS, INCLUDING SOME FORTY FOREIGNERS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES, WHO ATTEMPTED TO TRANSPORT LARGE QUANTITIES OF HASHISH THROUGH ALGERIA FROM MOROCCO. OVER TWO TONS OF HASHISH WERE SEIZED, AND THE TRAFFICKERS HAVE RECEIVED SENTENCES RANGING FROM THREE MONTHS TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON AND/OR FINES OF U.S. DOLS 900 TO 9,000. WHEN SPAIN TIGHTENED ITS BORDER CONTROLS, IT APPEARED THAT TRAFFICKERS WERE SEEKING AN ALTERNATE ROUTE THROUGH ALGERIA AND TUNISIA. AS A RESULT, THE ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES STEPPED UP THEIR ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AND ON FEBRUARY 17, 1975 PUT INTO FORCE A NEW LAW CARRYING STIFF PENALTIES FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES, INCLUDING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN SOME CASES. THIS APPARENTLY HAS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE LEVEL OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC PASSING THROUGH ALGERIA.
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ALGERIA'S DRUG LAWS ARE VERY STRICT AND ENFORCEMENT IS SUFFICIENTLY ACTIVE TO HAVE A DETERRENT EFFECT ON POTENTIAL DRUG TRAFFICKERS. ALGERIA IS NOT A SIGNATORY TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION, THE AMENDING PROTOCOL AND THE PSYCHO-TROPHIC CONVENTION. HOWEVER, IT DOES COOPERATE IN THE EXTRADITION AND EXPULSION OF DRUG TRAFFICKEF" CHRISTOPHER

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TAGS: SNAR, AG
To: ALGIERS
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